

Vol. XXXVII. No. 11,361.

RUSSIAN DISASTERS.

A TURKISH VICTORY CLAIMED NEAR KARS.

The Russians admit that their defense of Aghastar, or Jaslar, was unsuccessful, owing to the Turks having been reinforced. The armies, however, are still in sight of each other. It is reported by way of Paris, that the Turks have captured the Shipka Pass. A telegram from Adrianople is to the same effect. A Russian bulletin, however, reports desperate fighting on Saturday, and states that Gen. Douroschinsky was killed yesterday. It makes no mention of losing the Pass. In Asia, Mukhtar Pasha claims a great victory at Kurukdere, or Kurukdere, a place about twenty miles northeast of Kars, where the Russians defeated the Turks in the last war.

RUSSIAN DEFEATS IN ARMENIA.

The heights of Kiziltepe captured by Mukhtar Pasha—the Russians routed along the whole line.

LONDON, Aug. 26, 1877. Mukhtar Pasha telegraphs from Guedikler, on Saturday, as follows: "We have gained a great victory, having carried the heights of Kiziltepe during the night, and repulsed three Russian attempts to retake them. Two hundred cannon were brought into action. The engagement became a great battle, lasting until 6 o'clock on Saturday evening. The enemy were routed along the whole line, with the loss of 4,000 killed and wounded. We captured an immense quantity of arms and munitions. Gen. Tchoutchouassoff, commanding the Russian cavalry, was killed. We lost 2,200 killed and wounded, including several officers. My horse was wounded."

LONDON, Monday, Aug. 27, 1877.

The Standard's Constantinople special telegram states that in consequence of Mukhtar Pasha's victory, Gen. Rembail regards the campaign in Armenia as closed for this year.

Dervish Pasha, telegraphing from Batum, Friday, claims to have captured the redoubt of Djanguir. One hundred Russians were killed.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.

Reuter's dispatch, dated Erzerum Saturday, says the Russians advanced upon Kurukdere Wezinsky on Friday, but were compelled to retreat after five hours' engagement, during which some of their ammunition cases were exploded by a Turkish shell. Reuter's dispatch from Constantinople says a telegram was received there that the Russians lost 4,000 killed and wounded in this affair.

THE DEFENCE OF KARS.



The scene of the battle at Kurukdere, which is between Kars (see map) and Alexandropol (see map), a town on the Russian frontier.

THE SITUATION BEFORE THE VICTORY.

LONDON, Aug. 26, 1877. In Armenia the week has been one of utter stagnation. Both belligerents are resting on their arms. Gen. Melikoff is intent on trying to discover some weak point in the line of defence, and Mukhtar Pasha is watching every movement of the foe to ascertain the direction in which the next blow will be struck. Since the renewal of the Russian offensive, the Turks have apparently had somewhat the best of the fighting, inasmuch as they have succeeded in retaining the position from which it was Gen. Melikoff's object to drive them; but the operations in this quarter are altogether of subordinate interest to those in Europe. It is known that the Turks have withdrawn part of their Asiatic army to the European seat of war, while the Russians are reported to have similarly diverted part of the reinforcements originally intended for Asia.

THE BATTLE BEFORE ESKI DJUMA.

Russian reverses admitted—the armies facing each other.

LONDON, Sunday, Aug. 26, 1877. A Russian official bulletin admits that the Russians, after defeating the Turkish attack upon Aghastar or Jaslar on Thursday morning, were compelled by strong Turkish reinforcements to retire to Sultan Koi. Mehmet Ali's bulletin gives the Russian loss in these operations as 400 killed and many wounded. The latest Russian bulletin says: "Our attack on Aghastar has not been renewed since Thursday. The Turks have concentrated in strong force at that point, and are entreching themselves. Our troops are concentrated in sight of the enemy. In two engagements at Aghastar, on Thursday, we lost ten officers and sixty-six men killed, and eleven officers and 274 men wounded."

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE SHIPKA PASS.

The Russian position assailed on three sides—the Turks repulsed at all points.

LONDON, Aug. 26, 1877. Advice from Stambul, dated Friday, says the Turks in strong force violently attacked the Shipka Pass yesterday on three sides. All of their onslaughts were repulsed. At 9 o'clock in the evening a corps which had arrived as a reinforcement to the heights on the Russian right flank, and desperate fighting continued till midnight, when owing to the darkness attending the eclipse fighting was suspended. The Russians maintained all their positions, notwithstanding the Turkish numerical superiority and cross fire. The Russians have now fought for four days the whole of Suleiman Pasha's army, without rest or warm nourishment. Further large reinforcements are expected during the night. A later dispatch says the fighting on Friday was confined to a lively cannonade. The Turkish left wing threatening the Russian rear has been driven from its position. All is quiet at Lovatz and Plevna.

SULEIMAN'S EMPTY ROARINGS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 26, 1877. Suleiman Pasha telegraphs under date of Thursday, confirming the report of Wednesday's desperate fighting without decisive result. The fighting was resumed on Thursday. "The Russians," he says, "are completely surrounded. We command their line of retreat to Gabrova. To-morrow a decisive result will be made. As the Russians have not

profited by the darkness to effect a retreat, they risk being all captured."

THE FIGHTING ON FRIDAY INDISCUSSIBLE.

LONDON, Monday, Aug. 27, 1877. A Russian bulletin relative to the battle at Shipka Pass says: "Fighting continued all of Friday. Our troops retain all their positions. Our losses during the four days' fighting have been considerable, twenty-seven wounded officers and 900 men being brought to Gabrova. The number killed is unknown. The cannonade in the pass was renewed on Saturday morning."

THE LATEST RUSSIAN BULLETIN.

A Russian bulletin dated Sunday, says: "Fighting continued on Saturday in the pass with terrible violence. Our troops maintained their position and have repulsed several powerful attacks. To-day, (Sunday), Gen. Douroschinsky, who commanded the force holding the Pass for the past three days, met a hero's death."

THE TURKS CLAIM TO HAVE WON THE PASS.

Reuter's Constantinople dispatch, dated Sunday, says a telegram from Suleiman Pasha announces that he has taken the two principal Russian works in the pass. A telegram from Adrianople says news has been received there that Suleiman had taken the third work and was attacking Gabrova.

THE REPORTS CURRENT IN PARIS.

PARIS, Aug. 26, 1877. It is stated that a dispatch announcing the evacuation of the Shipka Pass has been received here from a Russian source.

The Paris Tribune says it has received intelligence from an authentic source that Suleiman Pasha has captured the Shipka entrenchments, with fifteen guns, and pushed on to Gabrova.

THE BULGARIAN CAMPAIGN.

THE GENERAL OUTLOOK—SULEIMAN AND MEHMET ALL SEEKING TO COMBINE THEIR FORCES—A CRISIS AT HAND.

LONDON, Aug. 26, 1877. The precise object of the Turkish activity since the 21st inst. remains doubtful. All commentators fail to understand why Suleiman Pasha should waste the lives of his men by an endeavor to force the Shipka Pass by a front attack, when he could effect a junction with the Turkish forces north of the Balkans by marching through Demir Capon Pass, so as to join Mehmet Ali Pasha, or could join Osman Pasha by way of Sophia, both of these routes being unquestionably in possession of the Turks, and offering the advantage of rendering the Shipka Pass untenable for the Russians. In this conjunction it is noteworthy that the estimate of the forces engaged in attacking the Shipka Pass at forty battalions, comes from Russian sources, and it is pointed out that the Pass does not offer a front more than 800 or 1,000 men. On the whole, it is possible that the attack on the Shipka Pass is intended as a feint, whilst the bulk of Suleiman Pasha's forces effect a junction with Mehmet Ali by some more easterly defile. There have already been rumors that the advance guard of Suleiman Pasha's right wing has appeared at Belbova, on the northern slope of the Balkans, and it is noteworthy that Mehmet Ali's army, for the first time since the commencement of the campaign, has been showing activity, as though feeling forward to meet Suleiman Pasha's advance. The reported Turkish attack on Timova is probably merely an exaggerated version of the movement of Mehmet Ali's forces from Eski Djuma, in the direction of Aghastar (or Jaslar), and the apparent object of which is to effect a junction with Suleiman Pasha on the road from Eski Djuma, to Timova. It is thought that a few days must clear up these points, as it is evident a crisis is approaching when the Turks must do something before the bulk of the Russian reinforcements arrive. Speaking generally, the Turks, aided by their command of the sea, have already brought up reinforcements, and though they certainly have more men coming, namely, the 35,000 from Bagdad and further levies of militia from Asia Minor and Syria, they will represent a much smaller ratio to the number of Turks now between the Danube and Constantinople than the Russian reinforcements will bear to the Russian army in Bulgaria. Moreover the Turkish reinforcements must hereafter be largely employed in maintaining order in the provinces, which are threatened with new or revived revolts. Reports as to the had commissariat of the Russians continue. It is said that the troops at Sistova, on Tuesday, rioted because of bad provisions, and threw 100,000 mouldy loaves of bread into the Danube.

The Russians on their part are making every preparation for a prolonged campaign. It is said they have contracted with an engineering firm for the construction of bridges across the Danube capable of withstanding ice. Also, instead of their occupation of the Dobruja being a transitory measure, as would have been the case if it was merely intended to cover a crossing of the Danube at a point higher up the stream, Gen. Zimmerman is strongly fortifying various points and receiving ammunition and siege material to an extent which shows that his occupation is not now merely as it may have been up to within three weeks ago, but that future siege operations against the fortresses of the quadrilateral are seriously intended. The Turks also seem to be arriving at the conclusion that the Russians mean serious operations in this direction. They have entrusted Prince Hassan with the task of facing and engaging Gen. Zimmerman while Fadi Pasha operates on the Lower Danube against Kilia and Nikolaevka, supported by the fleet under Hobart Pasha. It seems certain that the fleet intends striking a blow somewhere between Salina and Odessa, to parry which reinforcements have been dispatched from Akerman to Tartar Bazar and Nikolaevka.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE FRENCH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

PARIS, Aug. 26, 1877. Ex-President Thiers, in receiving Republican deputations on Friday at St. Germain, said that a Republic was the only government possible in France. He pointed out at the same time that it should be conservative in order not to create alarm. M. Thiers said he did not doubt the triumph of the Republican cause, and severely condemned its adversaries. It is rumored that Father Hyacinthe intends standing as a candidate for one of the arrondissements of Paris, but his chances of success are considered to be small. At a council of ministers, at which President MacMahon presided, it was decided to prosecute M. Gambetta for the speech which he delivered at Lille. The journals which published it will also be prosecuted.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

PANAMA, Aug. 18.—The steamer Payita, which arrived here on the 16th inst., brings news of further destruction by earthquakes on the South Coast. On the 1st inst., when she sailed from Callao, a report was received there of serious earthquakes having occurred at Cuzco and Arequipa, in Peru. The cable from Callao south had been broken, owing to it was supposed, to the earthquakes. The details of the news there had not yet been received. In Ecuador we learn that many of the priests are leaving on account of the hostility of the Government. The subject of a conference of the five States of Central America is again prominently before the public, with President Barrios of Guatemala as leader. Guatemala, Salvador and Honduras have already declared in favor of confederation. Nicaragua and Costa Rica are yet to be heard from. It is considered unlikely that they will assent to the scheme. The question between Germany and Nicaragua, growing out of the attack made on Mr. Escutido, is assumed serious proportions. Germany's ultimatum, in which demands are made for an indemnity of \$400,000 and that the German flag be saluted, tends more to a declaration of war than anything else. It states that if the demand is not complied with immediately on its receipt, a German squadron will march to Leon and enforce its demand. The matter is now before the Governments of the United States and England. E. H. Phelps, engineer in charge of the work on the extension of the Panama Railroad to the islands in Panama Bay, arrived at Aspinwall on the 21st inst. It is supposed that surveys will be made at once. An attempt at revolution occurred in San Jose, the

capital of Costa Rica, on July 29, but was immediately suppressed without having created any public disorder.

LONDON, August 25.—Ex-President Grant and party arrived in London this morning. They are staying at the Bristol Hotel.

TORONTO, Aug. 25.—A London telegram says that the forces declared that "the local government and white population of British Columbia ought to interpose no further obstacles in the way of a settlement of existing Indian grievances. Any delay in settling the difficulties in British Columbia would be supremely dangerous to the credit and tranquility of the Dominion."

INDIAN TROUBLES.

THE SITTING BULL COMMISSION.

GEN. TERRY AND COL. CORBIN TO START ON THEIR MISSION WEDNESDAY—SITTING BULL AND HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE DEMANDED AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—The Secretary of War and of the Interior have completed the instructions for the Sitting Bull Commission, and will submit them to the Cabinet for approval on Tuesday. It is intimated that they contemplate the surrender of Sitting Bull and his warriors as prisoners of war. Gen. Terry expects to reach here to-morrow, and it is expected that, accompanied by Col. Corbin, he will depart on his mission about Wednesday. Mr. Mill, the Canadian Secretary of the Interior, has informed the Government that he will join the American Commission at Chicago whence they will proceed, via Bismarck, to Fort Benton, and thence due north to the Canadian border. From Fort Benton to the latter point they will be accompanied by an escort of the 7th Cavalry. At the Canadian line an escort will be furnished by the Dominion Government to their destination. An estimate furnished the Government places the number of Sitting Bull's band who have taken refuge on British territory at 9,000. This is exclusive of the Sioux who took refuge in the British possessions after the Battle of Little Bighorn. News received recently from the Minnesota Territory are anxious to return to the hunting grounds at the headwaters of the Missouri. The anxiety of the United States and the Canadian Governments to make an immediate disposition of this question is mainly on account of the diplomatic complications likely to arise from the presence of a large force of hostile savages across the border.

THE WAR WITH THE NEZ PERCES.

FAVORABLE REPORTS FROM GEN. HOWARD'S COMMAND.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Aug. 26.—Following is the statement of Capt. Bainbridge, commanding Fort Hall:

"Left this post at 2 p.m. on the 19th inst. for Gen. Howard's command with an escort of ten soldiers and fifty Nez Perce scouts, authorized to march on a raid on the morning of the 22d inst., having marched about 100 miles, and found the Nez Perce band of about 200 warriors, one day's march in the rear. I learned with him one day, and left him fifteen miles south of Henry's Lake, which place is badly demoralized. There are not to exceed 200 fighting men of them. Found freighters and ranchmen along the Montana side in a very demoralized condition. The Nez Perce were on the road between Sand Hole and Pleasant Valley at the time the hostilities started. Had their wagon where they happened to be in most instances, and found with valuable freight and taken their stock to a place of safety. In one instance we found two wagons, one loaded with metallic cartridges and in another with powder, but the hostilities had not started. As soon as we had passed over the road the freighters began moving again. It is believed that the hostilities have disturbed no freight on the Nez Perce trail. The Nez Perce are getting Indian scouts, and think they will do him good service. Gen. Howard's command is making a severe campaign, but all are in good spirits, hoping to finish the hostilities in a short time."

MINERS ATTACKED IN THE BLACK HILLS.

DEADWOOD, D. T., Aug. 26.—The party of twenty persons who left here about two weeks ago for the Little Missouri River, returned yesterday. They report that on last Tuesday afternoon the party discovered Indian camps close to them; that they selected high ground and dug rifle pits, and that while engaged in this work, some twenty minutes, nearly 500 Indians appeared on a bluff opposite, about four hundred yards off, and opened fire upon them. The shot killed four miners. Thomas H. Carr, Quartermaster of the Deadwood Mining District, was shot through the head and killed. Twenty-seven miners were wounded, and the miners escaped, being compelled to walk 150 miles to reach this city.

SENATOR MORTON.

A NIGHT AND MORNING OF SUFFERING AND DANGER—HIS CONDITION MORE FAVORABLE.

RICHMOND, Ind., Aug. 26.—Yesterday morning Senator Morton's condition seemed changed greatly for the worse. At noon he was very low, and friends feared that he would not rally; but soon afterwards he became more comfortable, and from a three to five o'clock p.m. he slept quietly and awoke refreshed, and had the papers free from the opiates which his system was entirely free from the opiates which his condition was more favorable. The alarming symptoms of Friday night and Saturday morning resulted from thoracic effusion, which his physicians claim has been checked. At nine o'clock last night his physicians, family and friends were sanguine of his recovery, in which opinion the Senator concurred.

At nine o'clock to-night Dr. Bliss makes the following statement: "I am willing to base my medical reputation upon the assurance that the acute pains in Senator Morton's right side will not return."

The Senator has passed a very favorable day, reclining during the afternoon upon an invalid lounge in the back-parlor, chatting with old friends and several neighbors from Centerville, while his sick-room was being aired.

Major Barbur arrived from Kansas to-night. The following dispatch was sent this evening, in response to an inquiry as to Senator Morton's condition:

RICHMOND, Ind., Aug. 26.—8:30 p.m. To the President, R. B. Hayes, Executive Mansion, Washington. Senator Morton has rallied to-day. The indications are fully as favorable as we could expect.

J. A. BERKMAN.

PROTECTIVE LABOR ORGANIZATION.

PHILADELPHIA, Penn., Aug. 26.—The workmen of this city met last evening at Chedelman Hall and organized under the name of the Protective Labor Party. Wm. R. Eckert presided. A platform was adopted endorsing the eight hour law, the equalization of taxes, compulsory education and a liberal application of funds for that purpose, and condemning the employment of prison labor by private persons, manual labor in factories, and the use of private property in the manufacture of arms. A committee of seven was appointed to confer with the other labor organizations now in session in this city.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES—BY TELEGRAPH.

LAWRENCE, Mass., Aug. 26.—John Butterworth, the North Andover wife murderer, has pleaded guilty of murder.

BOSTON, Aug. 26.—Bagnall & Lound, dealers in black and white stockings, No. 139 Fulton st., were robbed of \$25,000 yesterday.

CAMP ROBINSON, Neb., Aug. 26.—The Sidney coach from Omaha stopped Thursday night about 11 o'clock by five night robbers. The robbers secured \$12,000 and about \$1,000 in the possession of the passengers.

BOSTON, Aug. 26.—The steamer Rose Standish, when starting down the harbor yesterday forenoon, ran into the tugboat Charles River, sinking the latter almost immediately. Her crew was rescued by the tugboat Wm. J. Bradley.

BOSTON, Aug. 26.—Charles S. Wilber, of New York, who was swept out his depth while bathing at Nahant yesterday, was pronounced dead having been in the water for several hours.

NEWARK, N. Y., Aug. 26.—Richard P. Ellis, late secretary of the Association of the Sons of the American Revolution, was yesterday evening found lying on a heavy pile of iron. He was seized two days before and was, as reported, left to die as a result of Marquette's injuries, which are considered irreparable.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 26.—A fire broke out at the residence of a prominent citizen, who was sleeping in a room on the second floor, and was extinguished by the fire department.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

GENERAL RESULTS OF THE SESSION.

LITTLE DONE IN PRACTICAL LEGISLATION—LORD BRACONSFIELD AND THE WAR FACTION HELD IN CHECK—THE CHARACTER OF THE HOUSE LOWERED BY FILIBUSTERING—MEMBERS WHO HAVE GAINED OR LOST IN PARLIAMENTARY DISTINCTIONS.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Aug. 15.—The Parliamentary session of 1877 came to an end on Tuesday, and epitaphs without number have already been written on it. Unlike epitaphs in general, they are anything but flattering. They agree in pronouncing the session the most fruitless that has been known in this generation. Most hughenous of all is the verdict of the men who are responsible for the failure—Ministers themselves, who compose that curious funeral oration delivered at the end of every session, which used to be called the Queen's speech, and now goes by the name of the Queen's message; the republicanism of the institutions of England having advanced to that point, if no further. When so great an artist as Lord Bracconsfeld descends in search of a topic for congratulation to the passage of an act for extending to the Sheriff Courts of Scotland jurisdiction in regard to heritable rights, matters must be at a very low ebb indeed. Excepting this, and a bill relating to Trial Courts of law, the sole measures of the session, which even the Government think worthy of mention, are the South African Confederation bill, an Act to centralize the present Administration, and a third enlarging to some extent the educational benefits of Oxford and Cambridge Universities—an Act with a clerical twist in it, unhappily. To the true Tory this may well enough be a cause of pride, not a reason for apologies. For a Tory may be defined as a man who is for keeping things as they are, while most measures of legislation involve novelties; so from his point of view, the fewer new laws the better.

But it would be a mistake to suppose that the session has not been productive of good; though, indeed, it is not Ministers who can be considered the authors of the good. When the House met last February, there was great cause to fear that the Government would embark in a war in behalf of the Turk. That such was the wish and purpose of Lord Bracconsfeld is well understood. The events of the session thwarted his wish, and made the accomplishment of his purpose impossible. The debates brought on by the Opposition, and above all that which Mr. Gladstone started, against the will of the titular leaders of Tories and Liberals alike, compelled the Government to declare a policy of some kind, and the known feeling of the country stood in the way of a declaration in favor of Turkey. Not forgetting all that is due to Lord Salisbury for his resolute attitude, it must still be said that the opportunity afforded by the sitting of Parliament for repeated discussion gave the best effect, and ensured the best result to the dislike with which majority of the nation regarded the schemes of the Prime Minister. Schemes which looked to armed intervention finally subsided into strict but conditional neutrality.

But the character of the House of Commons has been lowered, say many people. Well, I suppose it has. Not, however, by the proceedings of Messrs. Parnell and O'Donnell. No. Any legislative assembly may be invaded by men who think their own interests or the interests of their constituents are best promoted by a policy of obstruction and riot. The House has suffered, so far as it has suffered, because it dealt weakly with these men, and became to a certain extent an accomplice in their folly. The Leader of the House is directly responsible for the disgrace which has fallen upon it. He, it is true, may urge that he acted in accordance with the opinion of many of the oldest and most respectable members of the House. But that is not a defense, it is a confession. The business of a leader is to lead; to take the opinions of other men, but to act upon his own. It was the duty of Sir Stafford Northcote to protect the interests and honor of the House, which had confided to his hands the control of its affairs. He failed to do it. He entered into an undignified and wholly needless contest with a faction which he ought to have crushed; hence the scandal and odium which the whole House has had to endure. I have said as much as I wish to say on this subject in former letters, and I am not going to continue the discussion. But when a verdict has to be made up at the end of the session on the conduct of business during the session, it is necessary to tell the whole truth. A miscarriage of justice may be the fault of the officers of the law as much as of the culprit. We fear Parnell and his six shillings deserve all that has been said of them. Sir Stafford Northcote's weakness has been deplored and his failure generally admitted. But it seems to me to amount to a positive declaration of duty.

Sir Stafford is personally popular, and it is with no pleasure that either political friends or political foes concur, as they do, in the opinion that his leadership of the House has not been a success. It may, of course, be a success hereafter—there is time enough before him—but a success in the past it clearly has not been. He has shown ability, industry, patience and some tact, but he has not led the House. A remark which I quoted from Mr. Bagehot at the start, as pointing out the reef on which he would probably strike, may be quoted again as a sufficiently exact description of the causes of his disaster: "A Minister who succumbs to the House, who ostentatiously seeks its pleasure, who does not try to regulate it, who will not boldly point out plain errors to it, seldom thrives. The great leaders of Parliament have varied much, but they have all had a certain firmness."

With this exception, no great reputation has been made or earned by the session which has just come to an end. Perhaps nothing about it is so remarkable as the fact that it is the first session for forty years in which Mr. Disraeli has not been a conspicuous figure. His voluntary exile to the House of Lords has deprived the House of Commons of the man who contributed most to its amusement and the amusement of the public. The element of surprise is gone, and there is nobody with that peculiar attractiveness which springs from the possession of marked political genius and the absence of fixed political principles. Mr. Gladstone has one of the subtlest minds ever applied to practical affairs, yet his course on a given question can generally be foretold with accuracy. Nobody ever knew where to find Mr. Disraeli, nor what he was going to say, and no subject was so grave that he did not discover a ludicrous side to it. In the Lords he has spoken seldom, and but once with great effect. His silence of his appointment of Mr. Piggott was worthy of his freshest days. Mr. Gladstone, on the other hand, has spoken frequently in the House of Commons, and there is no sign of decay in his wonderful powers. Veteran members say that no speech within living memory surpassed his speech on the five resolutions on the Eastern question, and none was ever delivered under more adverse circumstances. Mr. Gladstone persists in declaring that he has withdrawn from active political life, but he has, perhaps, never been a greater political power, nor ever done more signal service to his country than during this period of retirement from the nominal leadership of his party. One proof of it is that he has never been more hated in London; another, that he was never more popular in the provinces. London here stands for the majority of the upper classes, composing society; a majority of which, again, is strongly Turkish in feeling. The provinces must be understood to mean the great majority of the people of England.

Turning to personages who are not, or never have been, Prime Ministers, it can hardly be said that anybody, except Sir Stafford Northcote, has lost or gained much reputation during the session. Among the Liberals, Mr. Bright has made but one important speech in the House, having reserved himself for great occasions in Birmingham and Bradford, where he gave abundant proof that his unrivalled oratory has lost nothing of its former splendor. Mr. Lowe has scarcely been heard from of of. Mr. Goschen has deliberately renounced the claims he was thought to contemplate advancing to the future leadership of the Liberals by a speech in opposition to giving agricultural laborers the franchise. Mr. Childers won a momentary fame as Chairman in Mr. Raker's place during the Irish riot, but he is more occupied with business matters than with political life. Just now he is in America, and if you could get a speech out of him, it would be worth hearing. Another able man among ex-Ministers, Mr. Stansfield, seems to be giving the greatest share of his attention to questions of what is called Social Reform—more especially to those relating to women. There remain Mr. Forster and Lord Hartington. The former has taken a very considerable share in the business of the session, sometimes replacing Lord Hartington when the latter was absent, and sometimes more attractively than Mr. Stansfield. There seems reason to believe that the affairs of men are gradually beginning to rouse in Lord Hartington's mind some of that genuine interest which the affairs of horses have heretofore excited. At least if his duties bore him, he conceals the display of his weariness more carefully than he once did. He does not, for instance, stop in the middle of a sentence to yawn. He is quite frequently to be seen on the front bench. He speaks, not well indeed, but less ill than formerly, and gives evidence of a considerable knowledge of the subjects with respect to which his new position obliges him to express an opinion. He has, in fact, exhibited a readiness, good sense, judgment, and degree of political capacity for which nobody gave him credit a year ago, and in the one man among leading Liberals who has made additional advance in reputation since February. Among the Radicals there is perhaps nobody who has either gained or lost appreciably, except Mr. Chamberlain, who is Mr. Bright's colleague, and Mr. Courtney, who is Mr. Horsman's successor. Mr. Chamberlain has proved himself a capital speaker and a singularly able political manager; is liked personally, and has even won a good social position. Mr. Courtney, whose ability no one disputes, has not thought it worth while to adapt his powers to the assembly which he has so lately entered. He misses the tone of the House, and excites resentment by what is regarded as intellectual arrogance. Those who dislike him have perhaps indicated the cause of their dislike by habitually speaking of him as "Professor" Courtney. It is obvious that the style suited to the lecture-room and the style suited to the House of Commons are not the same.

Among the Tories again there has been no marked change in the position of the leading men, save in the case of Mr. W. H. Smith, on whose sudden promotion to the head of the Admiralty I commented in a recent letter. Lord Salisbury's steady and successful resistance to the reckless purpose of his chief has won general recognition from all but the Anglo-Turks, but it may be doubted whether it has increased his popularity with his own party in Parliament. The young Tories have mostly been for war. Lord Salisbury has still to deal with the Indian Finance, a question hardly less grave, though the effects of it cannot be equally momentous. Lord Derby's commonplaceness of mind and character has been brought plainly into view by the very circumstances which would have thrown into relief the qualities of foresight and energy, had he possessed them. Lord Carnarvon's management of the Colonies wins him a good deal of praise, and he has been the faithful ally of Lord Salisbury in the Cabinet contests on the Eastern question. Mr. Cross maintains himself at the Home Office, which places for the most part of the five great Secretariats, by reason of its occupant being constantly brought into contact, and often into conflict, with local interests and local magnates. Mr. Hardy has carried his scheme of army promotion and retirement; an elaborate effort to undo the results of the abolition of purchase. It is supposed that Mr. Hardy, who aspired to the leadership of the House in place of Sir Stafford Northcote, has not been wrong with regard to the disaffection of the rival who supplanted him. Nothing that other members of the Government have done calls for remark at this moment, nor have any of the rising Tories risen far enough to give promise of permanent distinction hereafter.

G. W. S.

A BRIDGE BLOWN DOWN.

DESTRUCTION OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD BRIDGE AT OMAHA BY A CYCLONE.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, Aug. 26.—Two spans of the Missouri River bridge at this place, two hundred and fifty feet each in length, were blown down and almost wholly destroyed during a violent wind and rain storm which prevailed here yesterday morning. The storm was from the north, and struck the easterly end of the immense structure with such force as to wrench five hundred feet of it from its connections and topple it into the river, twisting the struts and columns into an endless variety of shapes. About one-half of the debris is out of sight under water, and the remainder lies on the side and at the foot of the high embankment on the eastern approach. The dismantled piers, so far as can be ascertained, are uninjured, as also the remainder of the bridge, nine spans in length. In consequence of this disaster communication with the West is wholly interrupted at this point for the present, but arrangements will doubtless be perfected shortly, either for the erection of temporary spans until permanent ones can be supplied, or for the transfer of freight and passengers by ferry.

There are various surmises as to the cause of the accident, but the general opinion seems to be that it was a cyclone which struck it. The loss is estimated at about \$500,000. It will probably take from two to three months to rebuild the structure.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BRIDGE.

The bridge connecting Omaha and Council Bluffs was 2,750 feet in length between the abutments, and has eleven spans. It rests on piers, each consisting of two hollow columns of wrought iron one and three-fourths inches thick and eight and one-half feet in diameter, which are sunk to the bed-rock of the river in one case eighty-two feet, and filled with concrete and masonry. The bridge, which is fifty feet above high-water mark, has a railroad track and accommodations for horse-rails and ordinary travel.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 26.—The Constitutional Convention adjourned yesterday sine die.

MAINE, Aug. 26.—The American Anti-Slavery Association holds its first annual meeting in Cincinnati, September 3, 1877.

NEWBURGH, N. Y., Aug. 26.—John J. Roche, aged fifty years, dropped dead in his wagon while driving through the streets in this city yesterday. Cause, heart disease.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Aug. 26.—The payment of the \$100,000 loan, to railroad employees by W. H. Vanderbilt began yesterday. The pay for coming as far north as this city.

CHICAGO, Aug. 26.—The reunion of the Army of the Tennessee will take place at St. Paul, the first week in September. The volunteers in this city have made large arrangements with the railroads.

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 26.—Acting Bank Superintendent Lamb has designated "The New York Journal of Commerce" as the newspaper to publish the weekly statements of the State banks in this city, instead of the New York Ad.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 26.—Chancellor Cooper has made an order for the Tennessee policyholders of the property of the Columbia Life Insurance Company and that of the Tennessee Life Insurance Company, to be paid at the rate of \$100,000, and of the Life Association of America.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 26.—B. J. Reynolds and Nelson Johnson, aged seven years, were arrested yesterday on charges of being runaway slaves. They left that city ten days ago, and have been living together as husband and wife ever since. The father of the girl was in the city looking after them, but left yesterday without having found them.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Aug. 26.—The Merchants' exchange bank of this city announces that it will go into liquidation immediately. The liquidation is caused by the property of the capital, stationery in mercantile and stock exchange, and is directly solvent, and will pay dollar for dollar.

ADMINISTRATION TOPICS.

OPINION OF MR. HAYES AND OTHERS.

THE OHIO REPUBLICANS ATTEMPT TOO MUCH—PARTY LINES IN CONGRESS—RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE ORDER—MR. KEY AND THE SOUTH. [FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 25.—Here are some scraps of information and opinion gathered from recollections of conversations with the President and the members of the Cabinet who accompanied him on his recent tour in New-England, which are pertinent to present politics and public affairs.

The President, speaking of the Ohio campaign, said that the Republicans have made the mistake of trying to cover too much ground with their platform. They spread themselves out too thin, and do not make any point with sufficient plainness and force for an effective canvass. The President thinks that the popular mind rarely seizes upon more than one issue at once. There may be one or two subsidiary issues, but to make a successful campaign one dominant feature must be brought into prominence and kept constantly before the people in stump-oratory and newspaper discussion. Evidently the President believes that the true course for the Ohio Republicans was to put themselves in accord with the pacification policy of the Administration, and to make an aggressive fight on that line. Adopting as their ground principle the sentiment of harmony between all sections of the country and obedience to all parts of the Constitution, they might have placed the Democrats in the attitude of irreconcilables, seeking to perpetuate sectionalism by encouraging the South to stand together, and by antagonizing an administration which is endeavoring to bring about an era of peace and good feeling. As the campaign is now being conducted in Ohio, the President does not think that the result can be taken by the country as